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(54) Frame based data over synchronous digital hierarchy network

(57) A frame based data communications network is interfaced to a synchronous digital hierarchy network via a plurality of frame based data port cards incorporated into a plurality of synchronous multiplexers. Each port card comprises a conventional frame based data port, a frame switch, a rate adapter means and a mapping means for mapping data frames into a plurality of SDH virtual containers. Frame based data is incorporated directly into a synchronous virtual container without encapsulation in an intermediate protocol. A number of topologies of a frame based data channel network are possible, overlaid on the underlying synchronous transport network, including an open loop topology, a ring mode topology, and a backhaul topology.

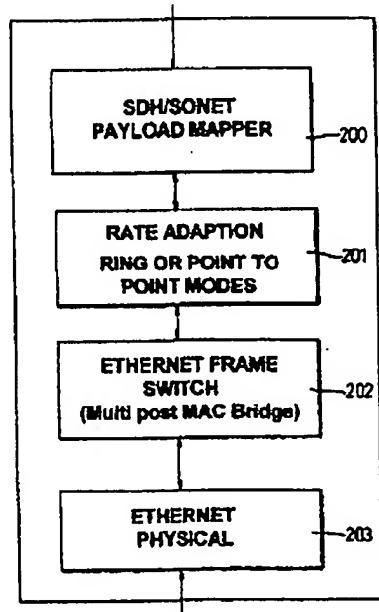


Fig. 2



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 30 4876

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-/-					
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims.					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>6 December 2001</td> <td>Fouasnon, O</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	6 December 2001	Fouasnon, O
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THE HAGUE	6 December 2001	Fouasnon, O							
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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